

# The Ashland District Connection

*Connecting laity and clergy to make disciples of Jesus Christ*

**Ashland District  
Virginia Conference**

May/June 2007

on the Web at [www.ashlanddistrict.org](http://www.ashlanddistrict.org)

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## From the DS

Dear Friends,  
Well, it happened again! What's that you ask? I participated in a mission team and I received back far more than I gave. It happens every time! On Friday, February 23, I traveled with 11 of our Ashland District pastors to D'Iberville, Mississippi, to spend a week doing Katrina recovery work.

We stayed at Heritage UMC in D'Iberville, 10 miles from the Gulfport-Biloxi airport. Heritage UMC has become Camp Heritage, a base of operations for Volunteers In Mission work teams that come for a week at a time. In the spring of 2006 a work team from Indiana built a dormitory immediately behind the Heritage UMC sanctuary that sleeps 50 people, has a large kitchen, lunch room and two large bathrooms with four shower stalls each. Adjacent to the sanctuary, work teams constructed a warehouse to store tools and supplies. A trailer next to the front door

of the church is the office of the job worksite coordinator.



*What was once a home.*

When more than 50 volunteers are on site, Heritage UMC opens their sanctuary and Sunday school rooms as bedrooms.

During our Sunday morning worship, Heritage UMC was saying good-bye to Seashore Mission UMC (a black congregation that had shared worship space with Heritage since Katrina hit in August 2005). I must admit that I was absolutely blown away by the bold witness of the congregation of Heritage UMC as they have turned their facility and programs into a base of operations for Katrina recovery.

This is what I hope for our district: first, it is my prayer that every church on the Ashland District could have

the same passion for ministry to its community. Second, the folks in Mississippi (and all over the Gulf coast) still need our help. Please consider sending a team from your congregation within this year of 2007. Teams can be as small as 4-6 people with one skilled leader.

Finally, I recommend Camp Heritage at Heritage UMC as the place to go. Here is their contact information:

**Heritage UMC**  
**4322 Poops Ferry Road**  
**D'Iberville, MS 39540**  
**228-392-4288**

[heritagehope@bellsouth.net](mailto:heritagehope@bellsouth.net)

I promise – If you go, you will receive far more than you give. It happens every time!

*With grace and hope,*  
Mark



*Ashland Clergy Team*

## **Clergy Mission Team Members**

Thanks from all of us to our pastors and DS for serving as the hands and feet of Christ in their journey to D'Iverville, Mississippi. Team members were Jonathan Baker, pastor of Prospect UMC; Beth-Marie Barnett, pastor of Shiloh UMC in Montpelier; Kerry Boggs, pastor of Mechanicsville UMC; Spencer Broce, pastor of Lebanon UMC; Bill Duganne, pastor of Bowling Green UMC and Shiloh UMC in Milford; Mark Ogren, Ashland District Superintendent; Charlie Reynolds, pastor of Providence UMC; Claudia Stallings, pastor of Beaverdam UMC and Rouzie's Chapel; Bob Smith, pastor of New Hope UMC; Won Un, pastor of Highland Springs UMC; Paula Werner, pastor of St. Matthias UMC; and Jim Wishmyer, Register Chapel.

## *From Our Lay Leader*

Recently I participated in the 2007 VA Laity Spiritual Growth Retreat at VAUMC in Blackstone lead by Karen McIntyre of Nashville, TN. She taught us that it is very important for Christians to share our stories with those around us. Micah 6:8 was her scripture: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do

justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Karen told us God loves stories. Stories transform us and bind us together in our human family. Stories help us to accept paradox in life and to know hope. They help us to heal. Our stories give us a glimpse of the relationship with God and his family. Forgiveness is very important. We need to tell our stories over and over.

I have loved for years hearing and telling stories of family, fellow Christians, friends and the Bible. We have a story to tell to our community and world. So let's tell our stories to our neighbors, friends, family, and associates, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy word.

*Agape,  
John*

## UMM

The United Methodist Men are hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Granville Wade Golf Tournament for the benefit of Heart Havens on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at Queenfield Golf Club in Manquin, VA. Deadline for registration is Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

To register call or email Justin Williams, pastor of Bethel UMC at 804-994-0253 or [jwilliams@juno.com](mailto:jwilliams@juno.com). Have fun and help Heart Havens.

## **More UMM**

The SEJ United Methodist Men Quadrennial Spiritual Gathering and Training will take place at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center August 10-12, 2007. For more information, contact Mack B. Parker at 919-255-3353 or e-mail [mparker130@nc.rr.com](mailto:mparker130@nc.rr.com).

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## VA Conference

The "Let's Get Growing! Expo" will be a 2-day event during Annual Conference 2007 on June 12-13 in the new Special Events Center of the Roanoke Civic Center.

Marketing and personal evangelism are critical in today's church atmosphere and both will be addressed extensively. Topics will include community demographics, children's and youth ministries, contemporary worship tools, welcoming, Igniting Ministry, church growth and development, and building to make room for newcomers. In addition, at least 10 churches with strong outreach programs will share their ideas, their resources and their enthusiasm.



## All God's Children Camp



If you can serve as a mentor for one week of camp during August for children of incarcerated mothers, please email Ann Davis at the VA Conference Center at [anndavis@vaumc.org](mailto:anndavis@vaumc.org), or call her at 804-521-1138 / 800-768-6040, ext. 138.

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### School for Children's Ministries

This 2-day event for all those called to ministry with children in volunteer, part-time, or full-time positions will be led by Mary Alice Gran, Director of Children's Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, TN. Participants will learn practical skills in planning and coordinating ministries with children; explore new ideas, resources and ministry approaches; be refreshed and renewed in their commitment to the children in their church and community.

When: May 11-12  
Where: VUMAC  
Cost: \$75/person  
Register by May 4  
Contact: Ann Davis (see above for phone or email address)

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### PEACE WITH JUSTICE

June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be observed as Peace with Justice Sunday. Essay contest extended to May 15. (See [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org) for more information.)

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### UM Family Days at Kings Dominion

Come join thousands of Virginia Methodists on Saturdays in May for discounted fun at KD. There will be an all-you-can-eat picnic on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. For more info, visit the Web site at [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org) or call the Virginia United Methodist Center at 800-768-6040.

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**UMVIM** (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) is expanding and needs your help. In 2005 and 2006 over 9000 United Methodists have participated in some sort of overnight mission experience. Mission needs across the world have increased dramatically and more needs to be done. WE NEED YOUR HELP. Please come to a new UMVIM Conference Committee on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Lakeside UMC in Richmond to examine ways to make UMVIM more accessible and meaningful. Small group discussions will include topics such as the Web site, publicity, training, and a conference-wide rally. We want to draw on your experience and insights. Lunch will be provided but please register by **Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** with Jean Sharp ([JeanSharp@vaumc.org](mailto:JeanSharp@vaumc.org) or call 804-521-1144 or 800-768-6040).

### MORE UMVIM

The Highland Support Project (HSP) is looking for volunteers for four 1-week summer mission trips from June 30<sup>th</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup> to the highlands of Guatemala to build stoves and work in schools in Mayan communities. HSP is a non-profit organization promoting transformational ministry through its work with Mayan women. If you are interested in joining one of these teams, please phone or email 804-643-8635 or [hspservice@yahoo.com](mailto:hspservice@yahoo.com).

SEJ UMVIM CONNECT 2007 is June 27-29 at Lake Junaluska, NC. This year's gathering of those who would like to serve or have served on UMVIM teams will be especially exciting!

The theme will be  
***learn.go.serve.***

For more information, go to [www.umvim.org](http://www.umvim.org) or contact us at [sejinfo@umvim.org](mailto:sejinfo@umvim.org) or give us a call at 404-377-7424.

Open Hearts.  
Open Minds.  
Open Doors.

**ASHLAND DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE 2007**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
5/1-2	9:00 a.m.	Stockton Academy of Evangelism	Ebenezer UMC
5/4-6		Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat	VUMAC
5/5	9:30 a.m.	New Conference UMVIM Committee	Lakeside UMC
5/7	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
5/8	9:00 a.m.	District Clergy Meeting	Wright's Chapel UMC
5/11	7:30 a.m.	4th Annual Granville Wade Cup Golf Tournament	Manquin
5/11-12		Conference School of Children's Ministry	VUMAC*
5/14	6:00 p.m.	District Council/Board of Laity	Aunt Sarah's, Carmel Church
5/17-25		Licensing School	VA Wesleyan College, Norfolk
5/20	3:00 p.m.	Annual Conference Orientation	Wright's Chapel
5/25	1:00 p.m.	Closing Early For Memorial Day Holiday	District Office
5/28		Closed For Memorial Day Holiday	District Office
6/1	6:30 p.m.	Clergy Anticipation Dinner	Wright's Chapel UMC
6/1-3		Conference Young Adult Ministry Training & Retreat	UM Center
6/2		Conference UMW Day	Ferrum College
6/4	7:30 p.m.	District UMM	Wright's Chapel UMC
6/7	7:30 p.m.	Committee on the District Superintendency	Wright's Chapel UMC
6/10-14		Virginia Annual Conference	Roanoke
6/12-13		Let's Get Growing! Expo	Roanoke
6/23	9:30 a.m.	District UMW Taste of Mission	Chamberlayne Heights UMC
6/27		Clergy Moving Day	

*\*VUMAC—Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center*

The Ashland District of  
The United Methodist Church  
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